Sach. 79/1

THE SPEECH OF A Learned PEER,

March the 18th, 17$^{09}_{10}$.

My Lords,

I Have attended from the Beginning of this Great Cauſe, with a coolneſs of Temper, and ſuſpenſion of Judgment, becoming all your Lordſhips, and which doubtleſs moſt of You have equally put on.

My Lords,

I thank God, I was ever free from all Prejudice, and as I have the Honour to be deſcended from a Father diſtinguiſhable for his Faith and Loyalty, ſo ſhall I always endeavour to tranſmit theſe ineſtimable Vertues, as pure and uncorrupt, to Poſterity, as I have receiv'd them from my Anceſtors.

The Cauſe now before you, requires Your ſpeedy Judgment; nor can indeed an indelible brand of Infamy be too ſoon put upon this ſlaviſh Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience, or thoſe Chains upon the Aſſertor, which his Chriſtian Mercy deſign'd for Your Lordſhips, the juſt and renound Oppoſers of it. I know, My Lords, here are ſome that will object my having formerly, upon accidental Occaſions, expreſs'd my ſelf in favour of this Doctrine, that I have even Licenſed a Book that endeavour'd to ſupport it; but I beſeech Your Lordſhips, muſt a Man always be of the ſame Opinion, always adhere

to the ſame Principle, be it Good or Bad? Surely no! And I believe I ſee ſome Right Reverend and Merciful Fathers of the Church, who have and will juſtify any Change, that may be deem'd Expedient or Profitable, which in this Caſe I charitably believe many in this United Kingdom have found. No, My Lords, an Hereditary Right will never agree with that Liberty of the Subject, our Original Contract has intituled us to; we can give Her Majesty a better Title than that of an Hereditary One, and defend it better than by the Doctrine of not Reſiſting it.

The Second Article impudently arraigns an Act of Parliament, an Act made in Favour of all Diſſenters, a Sect Her Moſt Gracious Majesty, out of Her Motherly Affection to the Church of *England*, is pleas'd to indulge, and which I hope, We out of an equal Affection ſhall Maintain and Encourage. This Arraignment is ſuch a Contempt to the Supreme Power, as Your Lordſhips will then only allow, when it ſhall pleaſe you, out of the great Averſion to Government, to lay aſide that Share you have the Honour to bear in it.

The Third is a malicious Inſinuation of the Church being in Danger, and this, My Lords, is his Inference from our Indulgence to Diſſenters: But, My Lords, whether the Church be more in Danger now from our Indulgence to Diſſenters, than it was at the time of the laſt Invaſion, I leave any Man to judge; but who they were that firſt contriv'd that Deſign, is as well known, as are thoſe Honourable Gentlemen, whoſe early Care and Preparation ſo effectually baffled the Pretender.

The Laſt Article is one intire Invective againſt the Miniſtry; which Invective will appear more Odious, when I ſhall lay before Your Lordſhips ſuch Villanies, as an Evil Miniſter only can commit, and Your Lordſhips ſhall conſider how far any in the preſent Adminiſtration are from committing them: An Evil Miniſter, My Lords, is one that miſpends the Treaſure of the Nation, that defrauds the poor Marriner of that Pay, that is the juſt Reward of a long and faithful Service; that Encourages, as far as is in the Power

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of Evil Council, a Foreign War, and Home-bred Faction, to the Impoverishing the Subject, and Contempt of the Crown; that wants no Glosses for the Ignorant, or Preferment for the Needy; that has his Provinces for the Turn-coat, and Threats for the Pensioner. And Evil Minister, My Lords, is one that presumes too much upon a Service he is well paid for, that monopolizes his Prince's Favour, or suffers those only to share with him, whom the general Voice condemns in this World, and the Devil will as infallibly rejoice over in the next: And are there, My Lords, any of such black and distructive Characters? Or rather are there any that dare affirm it?

One Thing indeed the Prisoner has offer'd in Mitagation of that heavy Charge brought against him, that he did not name any of the present Ministry, that he did not mean them: But, My Lords, if Men of such distructive Principles, of the Principles of Passive-Obedience to Her Majesty, are allow'd to know their own Meaning, and put what favourable Construction they please upon their own Words; then, My Lords, adieu to those great Attempts you have so long resolv'd to put in Execution: But I appeal to the Lords the Judges, I believe I see some, however charitably dispos'd, of my Opinion, and that will ever claim the Priviledge of knowing when a Man speaks in Earnest: The Bishops have already condemn'd him; and it was to these Two Benches your Prisoner appeal'd.

What I have offer'd to Your Lordships, is a Brief of what the Managers for the House of Commons have so clearly made out; for which, since it is a publick Benefit, they deserve not only the Thanks of their Own, but of Your Lordship's House. Nay, My Lords, Thanks are the usual Honours for lesser Obligations, let Us decree some more open Acknowledgment; That the Managers walk in solemn Procession threw the several Gates of this Great City; That the Lord Mayor begin and lead the Triumph; That Two Figures representing Truth and Justice be carry'd on each side

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14 of him ; That the Emblems of Modeſty, Charity and Temperance, be born before the Managers ; That the Life of every Manager be writ in Large Gold Letters, that it may be ſeen how well ſome can imitate their Anceſtors, others out-do them : This, with whatever other Additions Your Lordſhips ſhall judge proper, I ſhall freely aſſent to, as I believe will the Majority of this Honourable Houſe.

FINIS.